

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
	596



Location Lexington

Address 376 Lincoln Street

Historic Name Franklin School; Warren

School; Ponywold; Scheibe Place

Present residential

Original schools

DESCRIPTION:

1852 (Franklin),  
1854 (Warren), 1903 (Ponywold)

Source Worthen 1946:65, 67, 103

Style Franklin-Greek Revival/Italianate  
Transitional; Warren-?; Ponywold-

Eclectic  
Architect Ponywold-Willard D. Brown

Exterior wall fabric clapboards

Outbuildings

Major alterations (with dates) upstairs  
sleeping porch enclosed; downstairs  
porch screened in; screened porch added  
on north end (dates unknown)

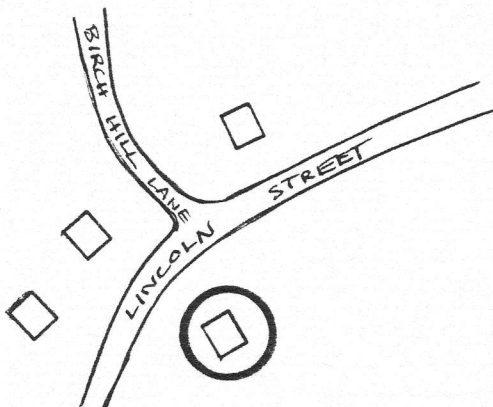
Franklin-from Concord Avenue (now 405)  
Moved Warren-from School Date 1903-1904  
Street (southwest corner Roosevelt Rd)  
Approx. acreage 57488 ft.<sup>2</sup>

Setting On rise with view to west;

abutting conservation land to east; near  
smaller, more recent houses.

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date April, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

This large house, set on a rise with a view to the west (across Route 128), is in contrast to the smaller, recent houses in its neighborhood. The house is actually comprised of two former Lexington school buildings, both built in the 1850s, that were moved to this site, joined, and turned into a residence by an architect.

The two schoolhouses are joined lengthwise at the gable ends. In the former Franklin School, the larger of the two, the first floor was remodeled

(see Continuation Sheet)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

This house is on the site of the John Hastings farm, bought by Jonathan Cary in 1827. After Cary's death in 1855, the farm apparently was sold to others: in 1876 it was owned by a Mrs. Jewett and in 1889 by F.W. Barry, also the owner of the large farm on the other side of Lincoln Street. In 1898 the farm was owned by George F. Tewksbury, a farmer, and was then sold in 1903 to J. Willard Hayden, a wealthy businessman who had recently moved to Lexington. Hayden made many improvements to the property but in November 1903 the house burned to the ground. Hayden then negotiated with the town to buy two schoolhouses recently discontinued as district schools: Franklin, originally located at what is now 405 Concord Avenue, west of Waltham Street, and Warren, originally on School Street at the southwest corner of Roosevelt Road. Franklin School had been built in 1852 at a cost of \$1,395, replacing one on the other side of Concord Avenue. The town only appropriated money for a new one-story school, but a member of the building committee raised enough money to finance a second story; the second floor was used as a children's playroom and for neighborhood social gatherings (Smith 1891:105-107). Not as much is known of the Warren School, except that it cost \$1,867 and was built in 1854 by David A. Tuttle, a prominent nineteenth-century Lexington builder. In the early 1900s the town decided to consolidate all the outlying district schools into one central elementary school, and so schools such as Franklin and Warren were abandoned and available for purchase.

(see Continuation Sheet)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Brown, Willard D. "Ponywold . . . Lexington, Mass." Typescript, Lexington Historical Society.

Hinkle, Alice. "Franklin School recycled, a la turn of the century." Lexington Minute Man, June 23, 1983.

Kelley, Beverly Allison. Lexington, A Century of Photographs, p. 64. Lexington, Massachusetts: Lexington Historical Society, 1980.

Lexington Historical Society archives, Willard Brown scrapbook.

"Scenes from Old Lexington." Lexington Minute Man, September 1953.

Smith, A. Bradford. "Kite End," 1891. Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, pp. 105-107. Lexington, Massachusetts: Lexington Historical Society, 1900.

Worthen, Edwin B. A Calendar History of Lexington, Massachusetts 1620-1946, pp. 82, 102. Lexington, Massachusetts, Lexington Savings Bank, 1946.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Form No:

596

Property Name: 376 Lincoln Street

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

into the living room and library and the second into two bedrooms and bath and the master suite consisting of a bedroom, dressing room, and another bath. A two-story porch, originally open, was added on the west facade. The Warren School became the dining room, kitchen, and servants' dining room on the first floor and servants' bedrooms and bath and two other bedrooms on the second. <sup>several years new owners</sup> Within/ added a wing perpendicular to the back of Franklin (see photo); it has a bedroom and two bathrooms on the second floor and an enclosed garden room, which was originally an open piazza, on the first.

Historic photographs (Kelley 1980:64) and a description by the architect (Lexington Historical Society typescript) indicate the extent of the exterior changes to the original schools. The original Franklin School had a large doorway with a small bracket-supported hood and a round-headed window in the attic, all in the gable end; these were replaced with a large exterior chimney piercing the overhanging eaves and flanked by two quarter-round windows. The brackets under the eaves and corner returns of the original school were removed but the slightly-peaked window lintels remain. On the west side of the original school, one window was removed to make room for the front door; this door is now not generally used and the main entrance is through the sunroom. No historic photographs of the Warren School have been located, but in a later description the architect said he cut down the second story of this building and lighted the second floor rooms by building dormer windows.

The interiors were completely remodeled, converting the schools to a house; of the schools, only the original floors remain but almost all the c. 1903 interior finishes are intact: the huge fieldstone fireplace in the living room; the panelling and brick fireplace in the library; the "El Dorado" wallpaper, corner cupboard, and brick fireplace in the dining room; the brick wall in the kitchen behind where the original stove once stood; the built-in cupboards and drawers in the servants' dining room and the linen shelves upstairs; original fixtures in all the bathrooms; slightly-peaked window lintels on the interior of windows in the Franklin section to match the window surrounds on the exterior; Moravian stoves in the master bedroom and one guest room; and unusually high four-panelled mahogany doors, probably designed by the architect.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Hayden hired Willard D. Brown, a Lexington architect just starting his own firm, to remodel the schools into a residence. Warren School was moved in late 1903 onto a new foundation on the site but the moving of Franklin, which was about two miles away, was hampered by winter weather and not accomplished until spring of 1904. Franklin was apparently placed in the original foundation and Brown then remodeled the two schools into a residence, as described in the Architectural Significance section above. Hayden named the estate "Ponywold;" he later sold it to Marston Harding, who also owned the farm at the corner of Lincoln and Middle streets (see 397 Lincoln Street form) and Harding in turn sold it to the Scheibe family, who owned it for many years so the estate came to be called the "Scheibe Place." Today, some of the former grounds have become conservation land and town houses have been built on the foundations of the former barn, but the gardens on the east side of the house remain as do the large fieldstone gateposts on Middle Street.

Staple to inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Lexington

Form No:

596

Property Name: 376 Lincoln Street

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.



Staple to Inventory form at bottom

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
LEXINGTON

Property Address  
376 LINCOLN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	596
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## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

A description of the property, as it existed in 1905 is found in the *Lexington Minute-Man* of October 7, 1905 after the sale of the property by J. Willard Hayden, Jr.:

Announcement was made on Saturday, Sept. 30, that Ponywold at Lexington, owned by J. Willard Hayden, Jr. has been sold through the office of Edw. T. Harrington & co. to a Boston business man, whose name was then withheld. This property is situated on Lincoln road and is one of the most attractive estates in town. The house contains fourteen rooms, with a dining room capable of seating forty persons; a living room with an enormous fieldstone fireplace, and library with beamed ceiling and great fireplace. The servants' quarters are entirely separate. There are twenty acres of land, a stable for twenty horses, poultry plant with brooders and incubators, automobile house and scores of fruit trees. The sale included all the costly furnishings of the house, all farm machinery, livestock, carriages, etc. The price paid was \$20,000.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

*Lexington Minute-Man*, Oct. 7, 1905.

Supplement prepared by:  
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Feb. 2009